

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 051015Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2505

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAREUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MORG MPOL GR

SUBJ: DEFENSE MINISTER ASSERTS CLEANSING IN ARMED FORCES  
COMPLETED

1. IN RESPONSE TO A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION, DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF ASSERTED ON THE FLOOR OF THE VOULI FEBRUARY 3 THAT THE CLEANSING OF THE ARMED FORCES IS NOW COMPLETED. HE FURTHER REMARKED THAT THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION IN THE ARMY. HE NOTED THAT EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ABOUT THE LOYALTY OF THE OFFICER CORPS CREATES ANXIETIES AMONG THE OFFICERS. MANY OF THEM, HE SAID, WHILE THEY TOLERATED THE DICTATORSHIP, WERE NOT FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE MILITARY REGIME AND NOW THEY FEAR NONETHELESS THAT DEMANDS WILL BE MADE FOR THEM TO BE PURGED.

2. FOR THAT REASON, AVEROFF CONTINUED, "I MUST REPEAT THAT THE CLEANSING HAS ENDED ONCE AND FOR ALL." HE

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ASSERTED THAT HE MADE THAT STATEMENT NOT BECAUSE IT

WAS EXPEDIENT BUT RATHER BECAUSE IT CORRESPONDED TO REALITY, I.E. THE OUTLOOK OF THE OFFICERS IS DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE AND THEIR ADHERENCE TO THE LAW IS COMPLETE. HE CONCLUDED IN THIS VEIN BY NOTING THAT AS FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ARMED FORCES, RARELY HAS GREECE HAD LEADERS OF SUCH A HIGH QUALITY AND SO WORTHY OF PRAISE.

3. WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THESE SAME GENERAL REMARKS, AVEROFF ALSO NOTED THAT THE NAME OF THE ARMY'S MILITARY POLICE WOULD BE CHANGED FROM THE HATED "ESA" OR "GREEK MILITARY POLICE" TO "MILITARY POLICE" OR "SA". COMMENT: THERE HAVE BEEN DEMANDS FOR OVER A YEAR TO CHANGE THE NAME OF ESA. DURING THE MILITARY REGIME THE ACRONYM ESA BECAME SYNONOMOUS WITH REPRESSION AND EXTRA-LEGAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS TORTURE, ILLEGAL DETENTION, ETC. THE RECENT TORTURE TRIALS FURTHER REINFORCED POPULAR FEELINGS AGAINST ESA. KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMED FORCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Film Number:** D760044-0612  
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**To:** STATE  
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